GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3414
ANSWERED ON:16.04.2008
VISION FOR SAARC COUNTRIES
Prabhu Shri Suresh Prabhakar

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the various proposals as envisaged by the Prime Minister for SAARC countries;

(b) the steps taken by the Government in pursuance thereof; and

(c) the time by which various projects based on Prime Ministers vision will be implemented?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) to (c) Speaking at the 14th SAARC Summit, the Prime Minister said that, "I have a compelling vision of an inclusive, plural and rapidly developing South Asia playing its role in an interdependent world's economic development and peaceful evolution." Several concrete proposals have been made by PM at SAARC to translate this vision into reality. These proposals include, South Asia University, SAARC Telemedicine Network, SAARC Food Bank, SAARC Multimodal Transport Project, SAARC Museum of Textiles, SAARC Car Rally and South Asia Energy Dialogue. These proposals have moved SAARC from a declaratory to an implementation phase. The status of these proposals is detailed in the attached table.